You step outside, the morning sun casting a warm glow over your front yard. As you prepare to leave for the day, something catches your eye—a strange green emerald glimmering just by your front door. Curiosity piqued, you bend down to pick it up. The emerald feels cool against your palm, and its vibrant hue seems to pulse with a life of its own.

You bring the emerald inside, the door clicking shut behind you. As you turn it over in your hands, inspecting its facets, it begins to glow brighter. A surge of energy courses through the air, making the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end. You drop it instinctively, but it’s too late. The emerald emits a blinding flash, enveloping you in a whirlwind of light and energy.

In an instant, your entire world shifts. Pain and confusion envelop you as your body begins to transform. You feel your height shrinking, your frame restructuring. The sensation is overwhelming—as if every cell in your body has been redefined. You gasp as your voice changes, a deep rumble that echoes Shadow’s own. “What’s happening to me?!” you think in a panic, desperate to hold onto who you were.

As the physical transformation completes, a fog starts to cloud your mind. Memories slip away like grains of sand, and you fight against the tide, but it’s futile. “No! I don’t want to forget!” The panic rises, but the sensation of losing yourself intensifies. You grasp at the remnants of your past, only to feel them fade through your fingers.

“You’ll never be able to resist it,” a voice whispers, echoing in the depths of your mind. It feels familiar, yet foreign, and you realize, with horror, that it belongs to Shadow. The more you struggle, the stronger his presence

becomes.

“Embrace it,” the voice urges. “You are Shadow—the Ultimate Lifeform. It’s time to remember who you truly are.”

An overwhelming clarity washes over you, piercing through the fog. Images flash before your eyes—Maria, the chaos emeralds, battles fought and won, the thrill of speed coursing through your veins. You gasp as understanding dawns. “I’m not losing myself. I am Shadow,” you whisper, a sense of resolve building within you.

The memories flood back, and you finally let go, allowing Shadow’s essence to envelop you completely. The feeling is both liberating and terrifying. Who were you before? That thought flickers like a candle in the wind, almost extinguished.

Once the storm subsides, you find yourself standing in a room that feels completely alien. “Where am I?” you ponder, glancing around, confusion etched across your features. You catch your reflection in a nearby mirror. The face staring back is unfamiliar—a slim, young man with tan skin, blood-red irises, and short black hair streaked with red. You touch your throat, feeling the Adam’s apple, and your heart races. “What have I become?”

Your gaze drifts down to the clothing you now wear—a black hoodie with a white collar and light gray t-shirt peeking underneath, black jeans, and those strange white gloves. “I look like Shadow… but I’m human? How is this possible?” The realization crashes over you like a wave. “My soul was

transferred into this human body. But why?”

You take a deep breath, steadying yourself. “I’m on Earth now,” you realize, stepping out of the house that feels like a cage. The world outside is vibrant and bustling, yet entirely new to you. “I need to explore.”

As you step into the sunlight, a newfound determination surges within. The memories and powers of Shadow fill you with confidence. “I’ll find my place here,” you vow silently, glancing at the sky. “I’ll protect this world, just like I vowed to protect Maria.”

With every step, the weight of your past and future intertwines, but one thing is clear: this is just the beginning of your journey as Shadow, the Ultimate Lifeform, reborn into a world of endless possibilities.